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Alberta: Information on Agriculture, Natural Resources and Industries.



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Alberta's basic economy is still dependent on Agriculture

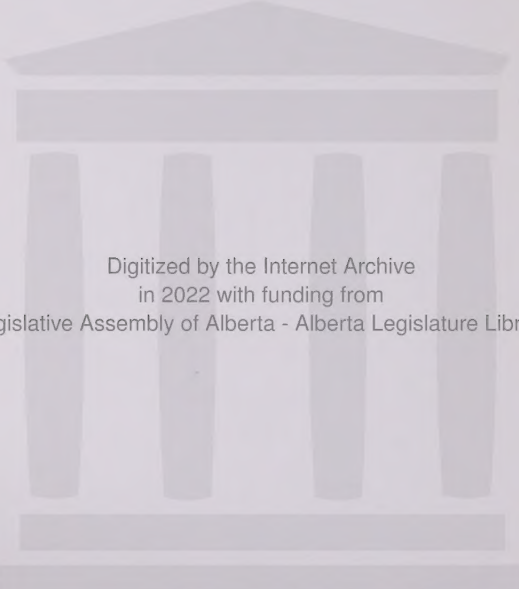
but general industrial expansion and development has been impressive during recent years. About 75 percent of Alberta's population is employed in the agricultural field.

From the industrial viewpoint, the Province of Alberta might be considered to be about 25 years old. An abundant supply of valuable natural resources places industrial Alberta in a truly advantageous position. Unlike the other Canadian provinces, Alberta is unable to give a half century report because our Province was only formed in 1905. Prior to that time, Alberta was one of the four districts which comprised the North West Territories.

Value of agricultural production in Alberta for 1951 was \$758,844,000. This was an increase of more than \$187,000,000 compared with the total value of farm products in 1950. Unfavorable harvesting conditions existed in many districts. However, increased yields and slight price increases for some lines, more than offset what might have proved to be a serious set back because of adverse weather conditions in some areas of the province.

A new era of development for highly specialized farming has begun in the southern irrigation districts. A new irrigation project now under construction soon will add another 450,000 acres to Alberta's 812,000-acre irrigable area. During 1951 the Province spent \$2,500,000 on this development and it has authorized expenditure of \$3,750,000 for the project this year. The federal government has spent about \$6,000,000 on the program. Specialized crops in the irrigation district have developed a substantial canning industry. Irrigated farms in the Lethbridge, Taber and Magrath districts produced 349,200 tons of sugar beets last year, a 21 percent decrease from the 1950 production.

It has been indicated that prices for farm products for 1952 will remain firm and that total cash returns for farm products in Alberta will be greater than last year. Feed supplies are good and livestock, particularly hogs, are expected to be increased. The farm labor supply has presented a problem in the past which is expected to increase with expansion of defence production. There will be a strong demand for farm products and



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this will encourage the Alberta farmer to contribute his share of the national production.

The intensive oil development and exploration program which followed the Leduc and Redwater discoveries was further expanded during the past year. Crude oil production totalled 45,915,384 barrels, valued at \$116,819,581 as compared with 27,149,232 barrels valued at \$80,568,178 in 1950.

Great strides toward expanding the market for Alberta oil were made in 1951. The first crude oil from Alberta was delivered to Ontario refineries by the Interprovincial Pipe Line last April. The maximum flow out of Edmonton through this pipeline is approximately 95,000 barrels a day and the maximum lakehead delivery capacity 70,000 barrels per day. Additional pumping stations now being constructed and the looping of sections of the line will raise the flow out of Edmonton to 145,000 barrels per day and the delivery at the Lake Superior terminal to 95,000 barrels daily for the opening of navigation in 1953. Preliminary construction work is underway on a 24-inch pipe line which will carry crude oil to the Pacific Coast with an initial capacity of 75,000 barrels per day. This new line will go into operation in 1954.

Approximately 73,000,000 acres of Crown and privately owned oil rights were under exploration in 1951. There are 2,818 producing oil wells. The long years of research spent on the Athabasca tar sands have proved fruitful for this summer five independent Canadian oil companies are exploring the tar sands area. Their reservation covers 250,000 acres of the huge deposit which is the largest oil reserve in the world- a source of between 100 and 250 billion barrels of oil. A Swedish oil company has leased the Alberta Government's oil sands separation plant at Bitumont to experiment with a secret new separation process.

Hydrogen sulphide is being found in many of the new gas discovery wells being drilled in the Province. At least two of the wells drilled in 1951 showed hydrogen sulphide in sufficient quantity to make the commercial recovery of raw sulphur feasible when a market is provided for the processed gas. Plants for the recovery of sulphur are being built at Turner Valley and Jumping Pound.

It will be seen that the Alberta tarsens to contribute the share of the national production.

The Alberta oil development and exploration program

which followed the 1960 and 1961 discoveries was further expanded during the past year. Crude oil production totaled 46,915,364 barrels, valued at \$146,955,000 as compared with 27,440,112 barrels valued at \$85,500,000 in 1960.

Crude oil production expanded the market for Alberta oil. The first 100,000 barrels of oil from Alberta was delivered to the United States by the first transcontinental pipeline in 1961.

Maximum flow out of Edmonton through this pipeline is approximately 45,000 barrels a day and the maximum scheduled delivery capacity

100,000 barrels per day. Additional pumping stations are being constructed and the location of stations on the line will be the flow out of Edmonton to 100,000 barrels per day and the delivery at the tank.

Reported to be 100,000 barrels per day for the quantity of production in 1961. Production of tarsens work is underway on a 14-inch line

line which will carry tarsens to the United States with an initial capacity of 75,000 barrels per day. This line will also be operated

in 1962.

Investment in 1961 was \$100,000,000 and privately

owned oil rights were made. Production in 1961 was 46,915,364 barrels. The company is now working on a 14-inch pipeline from the tar sands.

There is also a pipeline for the tar sands from the Canadian oil fields. The pipeline is now under construction and will be completed in 1962.

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at Turner Valley and Leduc.

Related to petroleum is Alberta's equally famous natural gas, an important factor in the Province's manufacturing industries that turned out slightly more than \$421,750,000 worth of goods last year. Sections of the United States and other Canadian provinces are desirous to receive Alberta's natural gas. Following a comprehensive survey of the Province's requirements and natural gas reserves, it has been decided not to export natural gas from the Province for general use at the present time. However, a specified amount of natural gas is being exported for a limited period to a Montana copper company for defence use.

Alberta is the richest of all provinces in coal reserves. Those reserves, probable and possible, are estimated at 47,874,300,000 tons. Use of natural gas has eliminated some of the local markets for our coal and increased freight rates curtail export to eastern Canada. Alberta is the fourth richest of all provinces in forest resources. With this Alberta possesses good streams for economical transport and water power. None of the three more heavily-timbered provinces enjoys Alberta's proximity to coal deposits. Our forests provide pulp and paper materials so far unexploited. However, pulp mills are to be erected at Edson, Red Deer and Edmonton.

The soil of Alberta also provides raw material for brick and other clay products. Alberta-made pottery and tile are in use across Canada. Of vast importance to the industrial expansion of the province is cement and Alberta's only cement plant produced 1,662,486 barrels during 1951. An expansion program at this plant will boost the production by one million barrels yearly.

Salt production during 1951 totalled 19,770 tons, 22 percent less than 1950 production. Only one salt plant is operating now and 12 percent of its production is sold for table use in Alberta. Forty five percent of its production goes to agricultural markets and 43 percent is used by other industries.

Alberta provides sportsmen with one of the greatest playgrounds in the world and activities for tourists and holiday makers. The Rocky Mountains located in Alberta have gained world wide acclaim for their grandeur. They are unsurpassed on any continent for the devotees of

Alpine sports. Our forests are the haunts of big game, the lakes and prairies of feathered creatures, and the streams and rivers contain some of the finest fish. For the adventurously inclined there are trail rides with pack horses and canoes and giant peaks to challenge the most enthusiastic climber.

This province has natural resources required for major industries. Our oil, natural gas, salt deposits, forest, and coal provide a magnetic attraction which induces industry to establish in the province. The total value of production from Alberta's natural resources in 1951 was approximately \$192,240,093 representing an increase of \$35,067,345 compared with the previous year.

The Alberta government will continue to give full co-operation and every proper encouragement to those who are prepared to invest in a development of Alberta's oil and gas resources under a system of free competitive individual enterprise. At the same time, the government regards as its first duty and responsibility the protection of the rights and interests of the citizens of this Province. The government will at all times make certain that their requirements have first priority and that our citizens receive a fair share of the benefits accruing from the development of their natural resources.

This province has begun its greatest period of industrial expansion. The Celanese Corporation of America is building a \$40,000,000 chemical plant on the eastern outskirts of Edmonton. The plant will manufacture basic and organic chemicals never before produced in Canada. This development is the biggest forward step in Alberta's industrial picture since the discovery of oil at Leduc in February of 1947.

During 1951, 15 new industries were established in the province. They are manufacturing or will manufacture such products as chemicals, rayon, plastics, caustic soda, petroleum products and storage batteries. The capital cost of the plant construction was approximately \$96,595,000 creating employment for 2700 persons. During the year 1951, 22 companies established branch offices, warehouses, or made major plant extensions in Alberta. Value of this class of development totalled \$8,158,000.

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Power is one of the keynotes for the future industrial picture in this province. Whether supplied by coal, gas, oil or hydro, power in the form of kilowatt hours is essential to our industrial development. At present the developed hydro power is sufficient for approximately two years of increasing demand. Nine of Alberta's 34 hydro power sites have been developed. In addition to this there are plants operating which use coal, natural gas and diesel fuel.

Alberta has made big forward steps in recent years. In 1935, the provincial treasury was so low that it was impossible for the government to pay the interest on its loans. Just over a year ago the government refinanced the Province's public debt at a saving of \$25,975,000 and obtained an average interest rate of 2.9 percent, the lowest interest rate in Alberta's history. In 1936, the debt of the province was \$167,027,000 and it has been reduced by approximately \$56,000,000, leaving a total outstanding of \$111,531,000. The present debt is reduced to \$130 per capita, based on an estimated population of 895,000, which represents a reduction of \$89.45 per capita since 1936. Main saving to the people of Alberta resulted from the interest saved on the Canadian and Sterling bonds, and refunding over a shorter period, bonds held in the United States.

The people of Alberta have benefited greatly during the past few years because of the increased revenue from the Province's natural resources. This money has been used to give the people increased and improved social benefits and to supply better roads and public buildings required for the welfare of the province.

In the present fiscal year, the government has provided \$26,500,000 for its program to aid municipal and other local governments. Some of these funds will be allotted for special purposes such as school grants, hospital grants, and grants for roads and bridges in municipal and improvement districts. In addition some of this money will be used for reducing the municipalities' share of indigent relief and child welfare service, and reduce the municipalities' share of the cost of Mothers' Allowances from 25 to 20 percent.

A year ago the Alberta government established a \$5,000,000 loan fund at two percent interest to municipalities for construction of self-liquidating projects. During this spring's session, an additional \$5,000,000 was provided for this fund. Under this plan a community can borrow, in whole or part, money needed to finance water works, gas installations, or other utilities on self-liquidating basis. A housing scheme as a self-liquidating project can be included. This means that many towns can improve their municipal facilities. Until this legislation was brought in, such projects were too great a drain on municipal taxes.

Substantial sums of money have been provided by the Alberta Government for construction and maintenance of highways and bridges, for construction and improvements to mental institutions, jails and sanatoria. Other public buildings required for the efficient administration of the Province's affairs will be provided.

Barring a major catastrophe, Alberta's future appears to be bright and the continued healthy industrial growth appears assured. However there are certain obstacles handicapping an even more rapid progress. Local markets are limited due to sparse population. Distances of transportation are great, and high freight rates to the various centres have concentrated population where export markets are serious handicaps. One of the handicaps encountered, is Alberta's small population. Our population now is 939,000 persons. On the other hand, the province has all the basic requirements for production. At present these are developed to an appreciable degree keeping pace with our rate of industrial growth. The labor supply to date has just been sufficient to meet the demand.

Industry based on Agriculture can be expected to expand. Uses of Alberta timber should increase both the lumber industry and the new field of pulp and paper production. The advance of the oil and gas industry is extremely important and is related to a parallel growth in chemical industries.

In addition to her vast natural resources, Alberta has developed an environment or industrial climate helpful to industrial development. This environment is made up of a good spirit among our people, the Alberta Government's Policy of individual enterprise and the activities of local and governmental boards whose efforts are aimed at assisting industrial development.

